

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

Reserve

THE LOCAL LEADER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE 4-H CLUBS

INTRODUCTION

Some of the questions that leaders often ask are, "What part do I play in relation to my 4-H Club?" "What specifically is my job?" "What am I to do?"

What you as a leader do, how you do it, what results you get, and what satisfaction you receive from your work depend in a large measure on how you are related to your group of young people as a 4-H Club. On the attached charts the shaded figures represent club members. The light figure is the leader in each case.

Which of the following describes your situation? Toward which kind of relationship do you wish to work?

I. "WE-AND-OUR" CLUB

Here the leader is successful when he knows the members well, is interested in them and their projects, is on good terms with each individual and his parents, but does not control or direct the affairs of the club. He believes that the club belongs to the young people, and that the organization will live longest when it exists for the members' benefit. He says, "Let's go," "Let's find out," "How shall we best do this?" He takes active part in club affairs but does not manage them.

- Questions:
1. How will the members feel about this kind of leader?
  2. What will happen if this leader leaves the community?
  3. Does this leader depend upon love, fear, reason, or persuasion for personal influence?

II. "LEADER-ALONGSIDE" CLUB

Here you move along beside the club and with it. The leader watches the progress, but does not manage all the affairs of the club. He offers suggestions, actively helps to do some work. He is genuinely interested, enjoys being a leader, does not have a feeling of owning the club. He sees that the job is done.

- Questions:
1. How will the members feel about this club?
  2. How will the parents feel about this club?
  3. Will older boys and girls be attracted to or held in it?



### III. "LEADER-OUT-IN-FRONT" CLUB

Here you are expected to have all the answers, make all the decisions. The leader is out in front, and draws the club behind him. Soon the leader speaks of "My club," which to others may appear as though the club belongs to him. Programs may be planned, but they reflect the leader's wishes only.

- Questions:
1. Are there any such leaders in your county? Why?
  2. What will happen if this leader moves away?
  3. Are the members getting anything out of club work?
  4. What will be the relation of parents to club work?
  5. Is this an easier or harder job for a leader than No. I?

### IV. "LEADER-RIDES" CLUB

Once in a long time we observe a leader who just "rides" the 4-H program. Recognizing its popularity, this leader may permit himself to be named a leader or committeeman for the personal recognition or acclaim it will bring him. Of course there are no leaders like this in your county!

- Questions:
1. Are there any such leaders? Why?
  2. What should be done about this leader?
  3. Do our 4-H leaders have enough training and help in preparing them for their job?
  4. Should leaders be publicly recognized?

### V. "HANDS-OFF-LEADER OR LAISSEZ-FAIRE" CLUB

Here the leader sits back, makes no decisions for the group, forces the group and the individuals to chart their own course; permits good as well as bad decisions, plans, and programs to develop. Strong clubs often get stronger under this type of leadership. Weak clubs ~~may~~ fall apart.

- Questions:
1. Do boys and girls learn anything from being put "on their own?"
  2. Is this an easy or difficult type of leadership?
  3. Can democracy really work in a 4-H Club?
  4. Would program planning help this club? How would you do it?